

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 cancelled.

4. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, for producing hollow plastic articles, encompassing the following steps:

- a) producing a tubular plastic parison on a blow molding plant or coextrusion blow molding plant
- b) cutting open the extruded or coextruded plastic parison to give at least one semifinished open-surface product
- c) thermoforming the resultant semifinished open-surface product to give half-shells
- d) welding the thermoformed half-shells to give a hollow article, and
wherein the welding of the thermoformed half-shells takes place using the heat of thermoforming.

5. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, for producing hollow plastic articles, encompassing the following steps:

- a) producing a tubular plastic parison on a blow molding plant or coextrusion blow molding plant
- b) cutting open the extruded or coextruded plastic parison to give at least one semifinished open-surface product
- c) thermoforming the resultant semifinished open-surface product to give half-shells

d) welding the thermoformed half-shells to give a hollow article, and
which proceeds without any additional heating steps or cooling steps.

6. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, for producing
hollow plastic articles, encompassing the following steps:

- a) producing a tubular plastic parison on a blow molding plant or
coextrusion blow molding plant
- b) cutting open the extruded or coextruded plastic parison to give at
least one semifinished open-surface product
- c) thermoforming the resultant semifinished open-surface product to
give half-shells
- d) welding the thermoformed half-shells to give a hollow article, and

wherein, prior to the cutting process, the tubular plastic parison is
extended perpendicularly to the direction of extrusion, with the aid of a
spreading device.

7. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, for producing
hollow plastic articles, encompassing the following steps:

- a) producing a tubular plastic parison on a blow molding plant or
coextrusion blow molding plant
- b) cutting open the extruded or coextruded plastic parison to give at
least one semifinished open-surface product
- c) thermoforming the resultant semifinished open-surface product to
give half-shells

d) welding the thermoformed half-shells to give a hollow article, and

wherein the cutting of the plastic parison takes place prior to separation from the die, i.e. straight away during the extrusion process or immediately following the same.

8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the semifinished open-surface products are stretched perpendicularly to the extrusion device.

9. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, claim 1, wherein the plastic parison has at least one layer made from polymeric material, ~~preferably~~ selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures thereof ~~of these~~.

10. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, ~~encompassing preferably base layer, regrind layer, adhesion promoter layer, and/or barrier layer.~~

11. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, claim 1, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers, encompassing, from the outside to the inside:

- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 5 to 30%,
- a regarding layer with a thickness of from 10 to 82%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%,
- a barrier layer with a thickness of from 1 to 10%,
- an adhesion-promoter layer with a thickness of from 1 to 5%, and

- a layer made from HDPE with a thickness of from 10 to 40%,
based in each case on the total thickness of the container wall.

12. (Currently amended) A hollow plastic article ~~which can be~~ produced
by the process as claimed in claim 4 ~~claim 1~~.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

14. (New) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plastic parison
has at least one layer made from polymeric material, selected from the
group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride,
polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures thereof.

15. (New) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structure of the
plastic parison has two or more layers.

16. (New) A hollow plastic article produced by the process of claim 5.

17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plastic parison
has at least one layer made from polymeric material, selected from the
group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride,
polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures thereof.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the structure of the
plastic parison has two or more layers.

19. (New) A hollow plastic article produced by the process of claim 6.

20. (New) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the plastic parison
has at least one layer made from polymeric material, selected from the
group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride,
polyamide, polyketone, polyester, and mixtures thereof.

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21. (New) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the structure of the plastic parison has two or more layers.

22. (New) A hollow plastic article produced by the process of claim 7.